

1 31 March 2017 – Proposal ICV and EGP Committee

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3 **Fighting Trump and the far-right: building the alternative through deeper democratization**
4 **and socio-economic integration in the EU**

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6 The election of Donald Trump *as 45th* US President last 8th November 2016 is a result that will
7 not only entail a huge impact to those residing in the US, but, moreover, is likely to cause
8 major turbulences on a worldwide scale.

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10 (AM6) President Trump represents, primarily, a threat to democracy, freedom and the rights
11 of American citizens. The first months of his mandate already proved an agenda that restricts
12 civil liberties, dismantles social rights and distributive policies, and criminalizes minorities,
13 while also representing a real threat to the division of powers.

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15 In international relations we can expect the U.S. to disengage from multilateral bodies, such as
16 UN, and to undo its international commitments to Human Rights, climate protection, security,
17 developmental cooperation, **(AM12)** women's rights (Gag Rule) monetary and financial
18 stability. The introduction of protectionist barriers **(AM 14)** increases the likelihood for political
19 tensions and trade conflicts, including with China.

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21 (Am. 15) In the EU as in the US, inequality is rising since the 70s and societies are deeply
22 divided. Furthermore, over these last years, the crisis has threatened many social, democratic
23 and economic achievements, fueling the fear of globalisation and laying bare the EU's and its
24 member states' inability to offer viable and cohesive solutions. This helped populist parties and
25 far right movements to gain ground and reach power in the US and in many EU member states
26 using a rhetoric that has traces of the xenophobic propaganda used by movements at the origin
27 of authoritarian regimes of last century.

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29 In the nearest future, we are facing an alarming situation in France with Front National trying to
30 access the Elysée. All these forces that could be defined as the "Authoritarian International"
31 have in common their will of dismantling the EU, which also appears to fits well in Trump's
32 agenda.

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34 The outcome of the Brexit Referendum and Trump's election have served as wake-up calls. We
35 cannot afford a normalization of the current situation and a political combat is required in all
36 fronts. The criticality of the current moment will unavoidably accentuate the conflict within
37 European society(ies) between the integration vs. withdrawal drive. As a pro-European force,
38 we, Greens, need to fight for the European project, and we need to do this with all the energy
39 and intelligence we have.

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41 The business as usual approach will not help to overcome the growing cleavages in society. In
42 order to unite societies again, it becomes more urgent than ever to offer a hopeful future
43 perspective at the European level. We need to tackle the democratic shortcomings that we
44 have in Europe, which have played a crucial role in the increased disaffection towards the
45 common project and led many towards embracing national retreat postulates. Moreover,

46 confronted with an opponent who represents a real threat to democracy within global
47 governance, the only effective answer to such short-circuiting attempts at a European scale is
48 to offer more democracy.

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50 The 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome provides a unique occasion to make this deep
51 reflection on the loss of global leadership as well to remind ourselves of the values and the
52 founding objectives upon which the Union is grounded, which appear to have been left behind
53 in the past years, and particularly in the so-called refugee crisis: unity in diversity, empathising
54 and providing welfare to those who are in need and suffer, in order to not let anyone be left
55 behind.

56 To conclude, we, Greens, are committed to these values and essential aims for the future of
57 humankind, and that the path to confront Trump and the far-right's logic is with concrete
58 effective policies.

59 Hence, every policy field shall be a global ideological battlefield. In front of measurers fostering
60 xenophobia and discrimination on religious grounds, we must foster open, intercultural
61 societies of dialogue, tolerance and inclusion, also as the most effective way to tackle the roots
62 of radicalisation leading to terrorism. And in front of climate negationism, we must step up our
63 efforts and play again a leading role in order to achieve the required binding targets and
64 effective related measures to prevent global warming. Also, thanks to the Global Greens
65 network, we will keep building an even stronger solidarity alliance of resistance to the far-right
66 in all five continents.

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68 We are convinced that our proposal for Europe is the one that can defeat authoritarianism.
69 We have proven that we are not only a source of good proposals, but also that we are ready to
70 take the highest responsibilities, as Alexander van der Bellen did in the Presidential election in
71 Austria, where he was the one who managed to stop the far-right threat or the big increase of
72 green seats in the Dutch Parliament that contributed stopping Wilders.

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74 So, we claim with pride and conviction that the Greens are the best antidote to Trumpism and
75 far-right across Europe and the globe!

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77 As such, we reaffirm our commitment to:

- 78 1. seek cooperation with supporters for climate policy and environmental transformation
79 of our economies from among the opposition in the US against President Trump, and we
80 will focus on this core green responsibility in all of our international cooperation in order
81 to make Europe a leader and standard-bearer in the green transformation;
- 82 2. foster transnational cooperation and exchange of experience around the necessary fight
83 to defend democracy against the emerging international plutocracy of the 0,1%.
84 Strengthening European democracy, particularly on the transnational level; making
85 good with progressive policies what the populists have promised falsely by shouting:
86 "Take back control!"; unmasking far-right leaders in Europe who portray themselves as
87 anti-establishment and ,are usually nothing, but clear exponents of the establishment

- 88 itself, and helping others to fight against shrinking space for civic and democratic
89 engagement are two-sides of the same coin;
- 90 3. continue our fight against unjust trade and investment relationships; we oppose
91 Trumpian policies of protectionism plus nationalism, as well as so-called free-trade
92 policies which favor only the economically powerful; we will fight for free and fair trade
93 and international exchange in a multi-lateral approach guided by the goal of global
94 justice;
- 95 4. reaffirm that racism, xenophobia, anti-Muslim propaganda, anti-Semitism, misogyny or
96 any other hate propaganda has always met and will always meet with our strong
97 opposition. We oppose policies that ignore our responsibilities towards refugees and
98 asylum-seekers and we advocate a migration policy that creates a credible alternative to
99 Fortress Europe; we insist on a consistent anti-authoritarian policy in Europe and
100 beyond;
- 101 5. cooperate with partners in the US and internationally to create resilient alternatives to
102 the social divisions and the social injustices that are plaguing our societies and to
103 provide a adequate true comprehensive socioeconomic alternative based on solidarity;
104 we want to exchange with them novel ways of creating justice and fighting those who
105 benefit from injustice. This includes a fight against tax-dodging, against exploitation,
106 uneven gender relations, against exclusion of young people or ageism.
- 107 6. Continue to fight for progressive, cosmopolitan and open-society values in order to
108 defeat the cultural backlash based on bigotry, supremacism, "my nation first",
109 isolationism and patriarchy (AM40)
- 110 7. to confront the far-right populism attempts to neutralize any ideological debate
111 through the simplification of analysis, "alternative facts" and a post-truth approach,
112 unveiling their inconsistencies by bringing the debate back to the domain of concrete
113 public policies confronting them not only with facts but also with a narrative that
114 creates a wider and inclusive "we" to overcome the exclusion that creates their "we
115 against others approach".
- 116 8. to work further to be able to propose a political alternative to the misuse of the
117 national identities and to confront populist positions based on segregation and
118 alienation of 'others' who are used as scapegoats; ; to work thoroughly in order to
119 prevent a split taking place in Europe, it being an existential risk as we could envisage in
120 some of the passages of the economic crisis.
- 121 9. To promote effective steps towards a resilient Union, whose main and most urgent
122 challenge at the moment in this sense is concluding the democratic-fiscal integration of
123 the Eurozone, where regretfully, the level of development and consensus in the
124 concretion is much smaller than in other domains still.
- 125 10. Continue our work in local and regional governments with pioneering projects of
126 hosting and inclusion of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers; creating more inclusive
127 and greener cities, with all the necessary social services for all; and also with our
128 presence in national governments, pushing for the much needed clean energy
129 transition, for instance in Germany, or even recently being at the forefront of the
130 climate deal in Sweden.